



Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your patient may have been exposed to pertussis.

For Exposed Patients without Symptoms:

As a precaution to help protect vulnerable individuals, we are recommending antibiotic prophylaxis for this patient if he or she shares a household with a woman who is pregnant or an infant less than 12 months old. Alternatively, we are referring this patient to you because he or she has an immunodeficiency or lives with a person with an immunodeficiency and may require antibiotic prophylaxis to help prevent pertussis.

For Exposed Patients with Symptoms:

As [insert public health entity] continues to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we have developed the following guidelines for assessing and treating patients at this time:

For patients coughing <21 days:

1. Collect nasopharyngeal swabs or aspirate for pertussis PCR testing and/or culture.
2. Do not delay treatment with appropriate antibiotics while waiting for laboratory results if there is no alternative diagnosis.
3. Document and communicate all clinical decisions related to pertussis to the school (this includes children for whom you have ruled out pertussis).
4. Strongly consider antibiotic prophylaxis for all household members if a pregnant woman, an infant less than 12 months old, or anyone with a weakened immune system lives in the household.

For patients coughing ≥21 days:

1. Laboratory testing for pertussis is not necessary. CDC does not recommend laboratory testing after 3 weeks of cough since PCR and culture are only sensitive during the first 2 to 3 weeks of cough when bacterial DNA is still present in the nasopharynx.
2. For most patients, antibiotic treatment is not required. Antibiotics are no longer necessary after 21 days of cough, with the following exception: you should treat infants and pregnant women in their third trimester up through 6 weeks after cough onset.
3. The patient is no longer infectious and can return to school.





SPRINGBORO SCHOOLS

1685 S. Main St. Springboro, OH 45066 | 937.748.3960 | www.springboro.org

For all households: Administer Tdap to contacts 11 years or older who have not been previously vaccinated with Tdap, DTaP to contacts 2 months through 6 years who are not up-to-date, or refer for vaccination with the Warren County Health Department at 513-695-2097.

You can find additional clinical and laboratory guidance on the CDC website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/index.html>

Should you have any questions or concerns, please call the District Nurse at 937-748-3960 (ext. 2615).

Sincerely,

Bronwyn Patterson RN, BSN
Springboro Schools
District Nurse/Springboro Intermediate Clinic Nurse
937-748-3960 (ext. 2615)
937-748-8498 (Fax)

Springboro Schools | 1685 S. Main St. Springboro, OH 45066 | 937.748.3960 | www.springboro.org

